Desert Driving *(OIF/OEF)*

- ***Observation.*** **Desert Driving in OIF/OEF requires particular vigilance.**
- ***Discussion.*** **Driving in desert conditions require additional skills to ensure vehicle safety. Additional hazards require particular attention such as: sand berms, soft sand, UXOs (while off-road), hidden dips, and reduced visibility from blowing sand or fog.**
- ***Lesson learned.***
  - **Drivers must adapt to the effects of reduced visibility and unimproved road conditions by reducing speed.**
  - **Avoid abrupt control inputs which could cause a vehicle rollover.**
  - **Use caution while traveling near canals or culverts, due to potentially soft shoulders that can cause the vehicle to veer off the road.**
  - **Negotiate large berms at a slow pace and at a 90 degree angle.**
  - **Stay on traveled roads to avoid potential UXOs.**
- ***Recommendation.***
  - **Drivers plan every aspect of intended route. Ensure the vehicle is properly serviced. Prior to mission get lessons learned from other drivers that may have driven the route for information on choke points, terrain hazards, confusing signs, etc. Always travel with emergency equipment and resources needed in case of vehicle breakdown.**
  - **Dispatchers check for current operators permit and proper endorsement before allowing the vehicle to be dispatched. Record violations or accidents as well as driving awards on warfighter driving record.**
  - **Commanders/Supervisors always apply risk management in the mission briefing for motor vehicle operations.**